

Position Paper – Freight and Transport

The Issues and Our Position

The capacity and standard of available freight and transport solutions to enable our members to deliver their production to markets in a timely manner and in top condition is vitally important to the success of Territory producers.

Every year Territory producers send around 100,000 tons of horticultural produce to markets across Australia and through to many overseas destinations. During the melon season some 150 refrigerated vans are taken each week for several months of the year by road and rail to southern markets. During an average mango season around 240 vans of produce leave the Territory each week, destined mainly for the east coast markets. The hay industry also transports 80,000 tonnes of hay to buyers around the Territory each year. In total, over \$200M worth of production is transported every year by our industry.

Without refrigerated and dry freight containers, pallets, packaging, trucks, trains and planes, and excellent supply chain quality management systems this \$200M of Territory production would not get to market and would not meet quality standards and out-turn requirements.

NT Farmers recognises the vital importance of freight, transport, packaging and logistics management/service providers that support Territory producers. In order to sustain and grow the farming sector, NT Farmers also recognises that its supply chain partners must be an active and valued part of our industry.

Our Commitment

To facilitate this outcome NT Farmers will:

- foster strong and collaborative connections between freight, packaging and transport sector partners and the farming sector;
- work with supply chain partners (refrigerated and dry freight containers, pallets, packaging, trucks, trains and planes) and industry to improve crop harvest forecasting as an aid to improved supply chain preparedness for both the timing and size of annual harvests. And to avoid capacity constraints;
- facilitate and encourage world class supply chain quality management systems across the sector and work with researchers and industry to continually monitor and improve the standard out turns;
- work with infrastructure providers and other export sectors to continually improve and expand the capacity and interconnectivity of road, sea, air and rail freight infrastructure; and
- inform members of export opportunities and options for transport.

Our Expectations

NT Farmers seeks and expects:

- that its members will proactively engage with supply chain partners to establish robust and professional business to business arrangements to meet their freight and transport needs;
- adequate recognition of the importance of contemporary, reliable and well maintained infrastructure to maintain the viability and competitiveness of NT agricultural enterprises;

- the consistent and transparent adoption of world class supply chain quality management systems by all companies servicing Territory growers and producers.

Our Agenda Items

- Industry collaboration.
- Further improve crop forecasting to mitigate capacity constraint risks.
- Continual supply chain quality management system improvements – starting on farm and continuing to market delivery.
- Investigate the benefits of harmonising registration of towed farm equipment with other jurisdictions.
- Investigate supply chain options to export farmed produce.